This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of provisioning a set-top box (STB) with a STB provisioning system including a service provisioning system, a billing system, a conditional access system, a video device manager, and a provisioning datastore, the method comprising:

receiving STB profile information independent of the a conditional access system;

storing the STB profile information in the a provisioning datastore;

receiving a customer order at the a service provisioning system independent of the conditional access system;

notifying the a billing system of the customer order;

transmitting a notification of the customer order from the service provisioning system to the conditional access system, the notification communicating customer desired cable-operator services;

storing information from the customer order in the provisioning datastore;

notifying the a video device manager about the STB; and

delivering a cable-operator configuration message from the video device manager to the STB, the configuration message being based on information from the provisioning datastore, thereby provisioning the STB without essential involvement of the conditional access system,

wherein the configuration message is sent in response to a boot-time request from the STB in which the STB discovers a DNS hostname or IP address of the video device manager from an initialization process and the video device manager determines the STB location by reverse-resolving the STB IP address into a DNS hostname via DNS lookups.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

storing STB certification information in the provisioning datastore.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2 further wherein the STB certification information is instantiated as an XML formatted document.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the STB profile information is instantiated as an XML formatted document.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the customer order is instantiated as an XML document.

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the STB provisioning system further includes a data device manager, the method further comprising:

    notifying the data device manager about the STB.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration message to the STB is instantiated as an XML document.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration message to the STB includes configuration of the STB geographical location.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration message to the STB includes configuration to enable multiple channel lineups.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration message is sent using bi-directional unicast messaging.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration message is sent using uni-directional multicast messaging.

14.   (Cancelled)

15.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

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receiving STB profile information as an XML-formatted document independent of a conditional access system;

storing the STB profile information in a provisioning datastore;

receiving a customer order as an XML-formatted document at a service provisioning system independent of the conditional access system;

notifying a billing system of the customer order;

transmitting a notification of the customer order from the billing system to the conditional access system, the notification communicating customer desired ~~cable-operator~~ services;

storing information from the customer order in the provisioning datastore;

notifying a video device manager about a STB corresponding to the STB profile information; and

delivering a ~~cable-operator~~ configuration message as an XML-formatted document from the video device manager to the STB, the configuration message being based on information from the provisioning datastore, thereby provisioning the STB without essential involvement of the conditional access system.

wherein the configuration message is sent in response to a boot-time request from the STB in which the STB discovers a DNS hostname or IP address of the video device manager from a initialization process and the video device manager determines the STB location by reverse-resolving the STB IP address into a DNS hostname via DNS lookups.

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